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DECEMBER

VOL. 74

No. 12

CONTENTS

Our cover painting is by George M. Ross, art director of AMERICAN FRUIT GROWER.

Letters to the Editor	4
The Question Box	6
Calendar of Coming Meetings and Exhibits	
How to Treat Storm-Damaged Trees By Wesley P. Judkins	9
How to Prune for Eternal Youth	10
A Grower's Approach	10
A Horticulturist's Approach	11
State News	12
Fruit Pest Handbook	12
Windfalls By Henry Bailey Stevens	14
Brush and Sod Cutters	18
New Ideas in Pruning Platforms	24
Editorial Page	30

AMERICAN FRUIT GROWER

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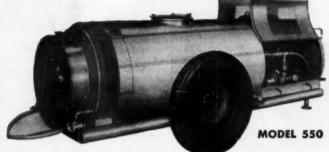
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LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

Ground Sprays for Mouse Control

Dear Editor:

In the September issue under "Coming Next Month" we were promised an article on ground sprays for mouse control. After waiting all month for this article, it did not appear. Since this is the time of year for such work I would like to receive my information now.

North Haven, Conn.

Dear Editor:

In regard to "Coming Next Month," I see you have an item listed on ground sprays for mouse control. If there is such a spray I would like to know the name and manufacturer of it. I have 200 fruit trees and have quite a little trouble with mice. Southbury, Conn. Fred Kaeser, Jr.

To help readers Kaeser and Sinoway we sent them advance copies of the story on mouse control which was scheduled for our October issue but didn't appear until the November number. Keeping mice out of the orchard is a serious problem and, as the article points out, ground sprays of endrin show considerable promise for some areas.

Interesting Experience with Albritton Strawberry

Dear Editor:

In the first week of November, 1953, I set out around one and one-half acres of Albritton strawberries. I set the plants from four to eight inches apart. I used about 500 pounds of 4-10-6 fertilizer on them when they were planted and around 500 pounds the first of January.

We started picking strawberries around April 25 and in over a period of six weeks we picked 200 twenty-four pint crates. The berries were of good quality and above average in size—all of them grading U. S.

No. 1. We plan to have plants ready for shipment around the middle of October. Teachey, N. C. David J. Wells

Correction in Peach Annual

Dear Editor:

This is to call attention to a printing error in the article, "Research progress on peach mosaic and the phony disease of the peach," in the 1954 Annual Report of the National Peach Council.

In Table 1, on page 22, peach varieties were classified by relative severity to the peach mosaic disease. The varieties listed as "slightly damaged" should have read "severely damaged," and those listed as severely damaged should have

'slightly damaged."

The disease is hard to diagnose in slightly damaged varieties, and as such represents a hazard in areas where roguing is used as a control procedure. Conversely, in areas where roguing is not practiced, growers will want to grow the varieties that are not severely damaged. Urbana, Ill.

M. J. Dorsey, Sec.-Treas. National Peach Council

Those readers who do not have a copy of the Peach Annual can write to Dr. Dorsey at 1502 S. Lincoln St., Urbana, Ill., for the 96-page booklet covering such subjects as varieties, packaging, growing methods, and selling.—Ed.



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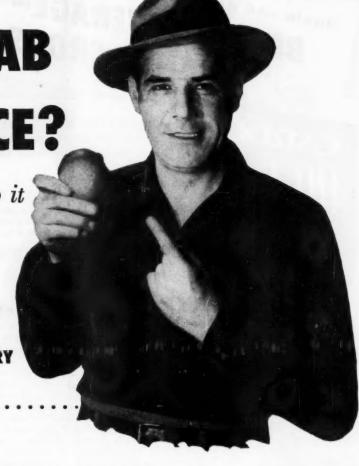
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DIELDRIN SPRAYS

Is dieldrin compatible with DDT, Bordeoux, and parathion?—Ontario, Canada

According to our Compatibility Chart, yes, but be sure to follow the directions of the manufacturer as given on the label on the can or bag. Remember that it is safer to mix wettable powders than liquid forms because sometimes certain solvents and emulsifying agents used in making the liquid formulations may change the compatibility.

PEACH BORER

In my last issue I read of a product adver-tised for control of peach borer. I misplaced my copy. Can you tell me who manufactures it?— New Jersey

Para-Scalecide is the name of the product, manufactured by the B. G. Pratt Company, 163 River St., Hackensack, N. J.

CHAIN SIZING BELTS

Where can I get chain sizing belts for apple graders?—Tennessee

Try any one of the following: Food Machinery and Chemical Corporation, John Bean Division, Lansing, Mich.; Lobee Pump & Machinery Co., Gasport, N. Y.; Tew Manufacturing Corp., Fairport, N.Y.; The Trescott Co., Inc., Fairport, N.Y.; Wayland Machinery Co., Covesville, Va.

PEACH YELLOWS

I would like to know if my peach trees have the yellows disease, as many yellow leaves have been falling since August 15. I set out 50 new peach trees this year. They are doing fine and are not dropping any yellow leaves. We had plenty of rain in August and I watered them all through July.—Illinois

I doubt if your trees have the yellows disease. It is not uncommon for peach trees to lose their leaves shortly after harvest, especially when the spray schedule has included caustic-type fungicides such has included caustic-type lungitudes such as lime sulfur. Production of slender, upright-growing shoots makes peach yellows easy to diagnose. In addition, fruits on affected trees ripen prematurely and are of inferior quality, usually with a bitter taste.

ORCHARD MOWING

I would like more information about whirling horizontal mowers used by the English growers which you mentioned in the August Issue.—South Africa

The practice of mowing orchards much as one might mow a lawn is becoming more and more popular in England. Some remarkable orchard performances are achieved where the grass is kept short by regular mowings. One of the machines which they use is the Hayter Rotary Grass Cutter, manufactured by Hayter's Sales Limited, 5 Spellbrook Lane, Bishop's Stort-ford, England. This machine consists of three horizontal rotary mowers in tandem.
Two of them run fairly well back of the tractor while the third runs under the tree.

APPLE BORER

What can I do to protect my trees from the apple tree borer?—Nebraska

We have sent our Nebraska reader a copy of No. 37 in the "Fruit Pest Handbook" series which appears each month in AMERICAN FRUIT GROWER.

CALENDAR OF COMING **MEETINGS & EXHIBITS**

Dec. 1-2—Connecticut Pomological Society 64th annual meeting, Hotel Bond, Hartford.—S. P. Hollister, Sec'y, Stores.
Dec. 2—Arkansas State Horticultural Society 75th annual meeting, Springdale.—Earl J. Allen, Sec'y, Fayetteville.
Dec. 2-3—Kansas State Horticultural Society annual meeting, Manhattan.—W. G. Amstein, Sec'y, Manhattan.
Dec. 2-3—Oregon State Horticultural Society annual meeting, Corvallis.—C. O. Rawlings, Sec'y, Corvallis.

Sec'y, Corvallis. Dec. 6-8-Nev

annual meeting, Corvallis.—C. O. Rawlings, Sec'y, Corvallis.

Dec. 6-8—New Jersey State Horticultural Society annual meeting, Hotels Claridge and Marlborough-Blenheim, Atlantic City.—Ernest G. Christ, Sec'y, New Brunswick.

Dec. 8-8—Washington State Horticultural Assn. 50th annual meeting, Capitol Theater, Yakima.—John C. Snyder, Sec'y, Pullman.

Dec. 7-8—Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association annual meeting, Pauls Valley.—Fred Le-Crone, Dept. of Hort., Oklahoma A & M College, Stillwater.

Dec. 7-9—Nichigan State Horticultural Society annual meeting, Civic Auditorium, Grand Rapids.—H. D. Hootman, Sec'y, East Lansing.

Dec. 9-10—Nut Growers Society of Oregon and Washington annual meeting, Multnomah Hotel, Portland.—C. O. Rawlings, Sec'y, Corvallis.

Dec. 9-10—Tennessee State Horticultural Society annual meeting, Knuxville.—A. N. Pratt, Sec'y, 403 State Office Bidg., Nashville.

Dec. 10-11—Utah State Horticultural Society annual meeting, Hotel Utah, Salt Lake City.—A. Stark, Acting Sec'y, 2225 So. 5th East, Salt Lake City.—Dec. 14-15—Peninsula Horticultural Society

annual meeting, Hotel Utah, Salt Lake City,—
A. Stark, Acting Sec'y, 2225 So. 5th East, Salt
Lake City,
Dec. 14-15—Peninsula Horticultural Society
annual meeting, Capitol Grange Hall, Dover,
Del.—Robert F. Stevens, Sec'y, Box 150, Newark,
Del.

Meetings in 1955

Jan. 3-4—Missouri State Horticultural Society annual meeting, Columbia.—W. R. Martin, Jr., Sec'y, Columbia. Jan. 4-6—Massachusetts Fruit Growers Assn. 61st annual meeting, Worcester.—A. P. French, Sec'y. Ambarat.

Jan. 4-6—Massachusetts Fruit Growers Assn. 6lat annual meeting, Worcester.—A. P. French, Sec'y, Amherst.

Jan. 5-6—Maryland State Horticultural Society 57th annual meeting, Hagerstown.—A. F. Vierheller, Sec'y, College Park.

Jan. 6-7—Kentucky State Horticultural Society winter meeting, Louisville.—W. W. Magill, Sec'y, Lexington.

Jan. 1-8—Western Colorado Horticultural Society winter session, Mesa College, Grand Junction.—L. L. Mariner, Sec'y, Grand Junction.—L. L. Mariner, Sec'y, Grand Junction.—Jan. 1-13—Indiana Horticultural Society annual meeting, Murat Temple, Indianapolis.—R. L. Klackle, Sec'y, West Lafayette.

Jan. 18-20—Maine State Pomological Society annual meeting, Lewiston Armory, Lewiston.—F. J. McDonald, Sec'y, Monmouth.

Jan. 19-21—New York State Horticultural Society annual meeting, Rochester.—D. M. Dalrymple, Sec'y, Lockport.

Jan. 24-28—New Jersey Farmers Week, Trenton—Fred W. Jackson, Director, Div. of Inf., Dept. of Agr., Trenton 8.

Jan. 24-28—New York State Horticultural Society enstern meeting, Kingston.—D. M. Dalrymple, Sec'y, Lockport.

Jan. 14-Feb. 3—United Fresh Fruit and Vese-

ety eastern meeting, Kingston.—D. M. Dalrymple, Sec'y, Lockport.

Jan. 31-Feb. 3.—United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association annual meeting, Hotel Commodore, New York City.—Association headquarters.

—777 14th St., N. W., Washington 5, D. C. Feb. 9-11—Ohio State Horticultural Society annual meeting, Neil House, Columbus.—C. W. Ellenwood, Sec'y, Wooster.

Feb. 14-16—National Peach Council annual meeting, in joint session with Pennsylvania State Horticultural Assn., York, Pa.—M. J. Dorsey, Sec'y, NPC, 1502 S. Lincoln, Urbans, Ill.; John U. Ruef, Sec'y, PSHA, State College, Pa. Aug. 16-28—Centennial of Farm Mechanization, Michigan State College, East Lansing.—A. W. Farrall, Head, Agr. Engr. Dept., MSC, East Lansing.

Paint Brush Marks Pruning Cuts

WELL-KNOWN fruit grower Ben Drew of Middlesex County, Westford, Mass., ties a narrow paint brush on the end of a long cane pole (type that rugs are rolled on) and with a bucket of white paint, sets out through the orchard marking the pruning cuts on the underside of the branches.

This method saves Drew considerable time as he can mark cuts high up and work ahead of inexperienced help so they'll know what and where to cut.-Charles L. Strat-



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AMERICAN FRUIT GROWER

Fruit Grower

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Apple tree recovery when tree was left on ground after being blown down. Branches have turned upward and a good bearing surface has developed.

How To Treat STORM-DAMAGED TREES

Better check the temptation to pull them upright, or you may cause more damage

By WESLEY P. JUDKINS

Virginia Polytechnic Institute

HURRICANES Carol, Edna, and Hazel caused widespread damage to orchards in eastern United States. Fruit growers are now confronted with the problem of salvaging or removing the trees which were blown down.

The first thought of most fruit growers is to attempt to pull the trees back up and brace them until the root system becomes re-established. Previous experience with apple trees which have been blown down has demonstrated that many difficulties are involved in this operation. A large number of trees were straightened up and braced in Connecticut following the hurricane of 1938. It has been evident for a number of years that a considerable amount of this work may have been wasted effort.

It seems impractical to pull back trees which are more than 20 years old. This may be a good time to remove middle-aged and old trees which have not been too profitable in recent years. Young trees may be worthy of a salvage operation, but in many cases a vigorous young tree may make better recovery if left on the ground than when pulled to an upright position. This is particularly true if the ground was soft and the roots were twisted in the ground with relatively few broken roots sticking up in the air.

An excellent illustration of the type of growth trees may make when lying on the ground can be seen in one of the orchards of the Graves Brothers of Syria, Va. Several years

(Continued on page 20)



Apple trees blown down with only moderate root injury may recover best if left as they are without any attempt to pull them erect.



Trees with considerable root injury may need to be pulled upright and have seedling trees inarched on damaged side to replace broken roots.

HOW TO PRUNE

A GROWER'S APPROACH

Fruit grower Alex Gale leaves branches other growers cut off, keeps his apple trees low-headed

By ELDON S. BANTA

A LEX GALE of Sodus, Mich., believes that by keeping his apple trees young and vigorously growing he can offset many of the troubles that so often afflict mature orchards.

The key to Alex's method is his system of pruning, which in many respects is contrary to conventional pruning systems. However, he has eight years' experience to back up his pruning ideas. He is even more enthusiastic about them now than he was at first, mostly because he has proved to himself that his system is cound.

The Gale system of pruning consists of heading back terminal branches, removal of excessive watersprouts, moderate thinning of side branches, and removal of only a small amount of wood from the inside of the tree. Tree height, roughly about 12 feet, is controlled by keeping top branches headed outward and removing those which grow straight up.

Pruning begins on the outside of the tree, always. Terminal growth is cut back so the tree remains within definite height and spread. Lower branches are maintained slightly longer than the higher ones so that sunlight can get to all branches to help color and size up fruit.

color and size up fruit.

For fruiting wood Alex prefers those branches that hang down, the ones most growers would take out. These he feels have stronger crotches and will not split so easily. The net result is a semi-dwarf tree.

This is how Alex Gale arrived at his pruning system: In 1945 he had 22 acres of 12-year-old apple trees that had been set 36 feet apart on the square with another tree in the center of the square, thus making only 21 feet between all trees. Originally,

Alex Gale alongside Golden Delicious apple tree from which watersprouts had not yet been removed. Lots of bearing spurs are in center of tree.

Golden Delicious tree ready for next season's grewth and production. Only small amount of prunings lie beneath tree—all the pruning that is necessary to keep tree young and productive.



Alex had intended to pull out the center trees when crowding took place. But when that time came, he, like so many growers, just didn't want to take out those young and productive trees. He pondered as to how he could leave them and keep on growing heavy, high quality apple crops. About the only way to accomplish this, he reasoned, was to keep the trees dwarfed, and that would have to be done by careful, special pruning methods.

The first year, 1945, he lowered the trees six to eight feet, and that was all the drastic pruning he did. Next year detailed pruning and shortening of side branches took place. And then the trees began to take on the shape Alex had hoped for. Very little wood was removed from the inside of the trees, as this was to become the future bearing area when outside branches were pruned back.

This is contrary to most pruning (Continued on page 23)

FOR ETERNAL YOUTH



Before and after topping old Delicious apple tree (above and right). Height is reduced by taking out tallest large branches. Weak wood is cut "in half."



A HORTICULTURIST'S APPROACH

Four-year experiments at Wisconsin prove "snipping" gives old orchards new life, promotes annual bearing

By R. H. ROBERTS
University of Wisconsin

THE system of pruning old apple trees to produce large fruits like those on young trees which we started four years ago has had an interesting by-product. It has proven to be a practical means of entirely regaining youth for old trees. The principle used is not to prune out the old weak wood resulting from age but to keep it and cut it "in half." This stimulates a strong, new growth like young trees have, with large leaves and large fruits. The tree is no longer "old" after making this type of growth.

The reason branches become weak with age is because they make on the average about a quarter less growth in length each year. After six to seven years a fairly vigorous shoot makes very little growth on the end. This also means small apples, as there is a direct relation between branch vigor and the size of fruit it bears. Long growth is necessary to have large apples.

Old trees to be "snip"-pruned should be heavily topped. If the bottom wood is to bear large apples there is no need to keep the high wood. Do not cut the top back by small cuts,

but lower it by entirely removing the tallest one or two main branches.

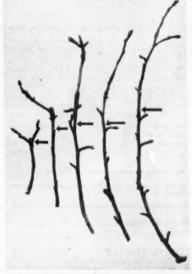
A little more nitrogen than is usually applied is needed on snipped trees to produce the growth which the numerous cuts will stimulate.

Do not prune a McIntosh tree by this system or it will make so much growth it will become over-vegetative and unfruitful. Use this type of cutting only on those varieties which tend to overload with blossom buds in alternate years. Among these are Duchess, Transparent (this clusters badly and needs chemical thinning), Wealthy, Red and Yellow Delicious, York, Jonathan, etc.

Naturally this invigorating procedure would not be used at a time when there is fire blight present in the orchard.

The only serious mistake that can be made in snipping is to fail to cut in half all small weak branches having two or more buds. Those which are not cut will not make the desired growth merely because adjacent branches were halved.

More or less suckering will follow the lowering of the top and the snip-



With "snipping" method of keeping old trees young, weak wood is left in tree but is cut "in

ping. When thinning these suckers it is very important to take out the long ones and save the short ones. It takes several years for the long suckers to make little enough growth to form blossom buds and bear fruit. The short ones will bear after another season or two of growth.

The cost of this kind of pruning is one and one-half to two hours for a 20-year-old tree. This is largely or entirely recovered at harvesttime as no small apples are produced. Also, an off-year crop can be expected, and the trees are young again. The End

NEWS state

- Hort Meetings Loom Big on Growers' Agenda
- Virginia Fills All Available Apple Storage Space in State

Apple Dessert Queen

PENNSYLVANIA-Helen Austin, 16year-old high school senior from Susque-hanna County, became the 1954-55 Pennsyl-vania Apple Dessert Baking Queen at the fourth annual contest held in York during National Apple Week.

She baked two pans of apple dumplings to win the crown from a field of 27 county champions. It was the largest field of en-trants. 10 above last year

trants, 10 above last year.

The contest was sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary of the Pennsylvania State Horticultural Association, in co-operation with the Appalachian Apple Service. More than 2,500 high school girls participated in the contest. The crown was presented by the Pennsylvania Chain Store

All Growers Invited

MARYLAND-Plans are about complete for the 57th annual meeting of the Mary-land State Horticultural Society. The grower-planned meeting, open to fruit growers from all over the country, will con-vene at Hotel Alexander, Hagerstown, January 5-6. The program will include panels and speakers on disease and insect control, irrigation, laborsaving through new gadgets in field and packing house, trends in newer apple and peach varieties, chemical thinning, marketing, and the new social security and income tax laws as they

A list of winter meetings and exhibits appears on page 7.

affect the fruit grower.—A. F. Vierheller, Sec'y, College Park.

Officers Elected

FLORIDA—Howard A. Thulberry of Lake Wales was elected president of the Florida State Horticultural Society at the fortical state Horticultural Society at the 67th annual meeting in Miami Beach. He is assistant general manager of Superior Fertilizer & Chemical Co., a citrus grower, and a long-time member of the society.

Dr. Ernest Spencer, of Bradenton, and L. Rogers McLain, of Tampa, were reelected secretary and treasurer, respectively.

The meeting attended by more than 300

The meeting, attended by more than 300 members, was one of the most successful in the society's history. A symposium headed by Dr. A. F. Camp, vice-director in charge of the Citrus Experiment Station, Lake Alfred, on the spreading decline disease was of great interest to citrus growers.

The pest responsible for spreading decline was identified in 1953 as a tiny wormlike organism, the burrowing nematode, which bores into and feeds on tree roots. The USDA in co-operation with the state of Florida has started an investigation of means needed to halt attacks by nematodes. A survey made last spring showed that the nematode causing spreading decline had

The long-awaited announcement of tolerances for pesticide: used in spraying fruits and vegetables was made by the U. S. Department of Health. Announced on November 20, the law allows 60 days for exceptions to be filed. The tolerances tollow closely "unofficial" residue tolerances under which spray schedules have been worked out up to this time. If growers follow their state spray schedules or the directions on the containers, there should be little difficulty in keeping the residue within limits. More information on tolerances will appear in the coming February Insect and Disease Control issue of AMERICAN FRUIT GROWER.

affected 492 groves covering 3,500 acres.— Clyde Beale, extension editor, Gainesville,

Storages Filled

VIRGINIA-Hurricane Hazel damaged orchards in the Piedmont section of Virginia far more severely than in the Shenandoah Valley. Many trees and apples were blown down, but tree damage has not been fully assessed.

Because of excessive heat in early Octo-

ber, the harvest was delayed while growers waited for conditions more favorable to color development. Growers expect to fill all available apple storage space, which has been restricted due to storage of government-owned butter and cheese.

ment-owned butter and cheese. The 59th annual meeting of the Virginia State Horticultural Society will be held at Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke, January 24-26. An excellent program has been planned, dealing with pertinent production and marketing problems. All growers from Virginia and other states in the nation are welcome.—John F. Watson, Sec'y, Staunter

Antibiotics Used

IOWA—Apple crop was generally light in most areas, due to dry sub-soil of pre-vious years, cold spell at blossom time, frequent rains at spraying time, and light bee activity. Fire blight varied over the state from none at all to heavy. Antibiotics were used experimentally by some growers, but they were not ready to report results

FRUIT PEST HANDBOOK

(THIRTY-NINTH OF A SERIES)

PEAR PSYLLA

THE pear psylia causes growing pears to become covered with black spots or masses of sooty mold, and in extreme cases it causes the fruit to be stunted and cracked. The leaves of pear trees may also become covered with sooty meld, and they are sometimes so devitalized and weakened that they drop.

that they drop.

The innect sucks the sap from leaves, young shoots, and fruit, it produces large quantities of a sweet, sticky honeydow, in which the sooty mold grows and flourishes. The smothering effect of the coating of honeydow and sooty mold, combined with the removal of the sop by the insect, may in severe case devitalize the trees seriously and lessen the yield. Light infestations are evidenced by small dark spots here and there on leaves and fruit; these are of little importance.

The mean neuliness.

importance.

The pear psylla was originally native to Europe but found its way to the north-eastern part of the U.S., and the eastern part of Canada sometime prior to 1832. It soon became a major pest of the pear from the Great Lakes eastward. About 100 years later—in 1939—it was found in the Pacific Northwest. In spite of vigorous efforts at suppression it spread steadily through the Northwest and British Columbia, and has made its way to northern California.

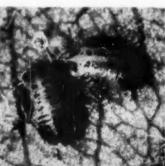
The least wisters in the equit stage in

The insect winters in the odult stage in crevices in the bark and in other sheltered spots on or close to pear trees. In this stage it is brownish in color, about enetenth inch in length, and has two pairs of wings. It becomes active during warmerien.

(Continued on page 28)

Photographs show adult pear psylla (top) and fullgrown pear psylla nymphs or "hordshells." Photographs courtesy USDA.





yet of their experiment.—Glenn Raines, Sec'y, Des Moines.

Orchard Tour

DELAWARE—Growers made a tour of the apple-growing section of North Carolina November 14-17, and are now getting ready for the annual meeting of the Peninsula Horticultural Society. It will be held at the Capitol Grange Hall in Dover on December 14-15.

Most of the 60,000 bushels of apples—pri-

Most of the 60,000 bushels of apples—primarily Rome and Stayman—which were blown down in the hurricane have been salvaged.—Robert F. Stevens, Sec'y, Newark.

No Blown-over Trees

VERMONT—Apple losses from the three hurricanes were much lighter than originally estimated. No reports of blown-over trees have been received.

Favorable weather and labor conditions contributed to a very satisfactory McIntosh picking season, with losses caused by harvest drop held to a minimum. The 1954 crop will approach 85 per cent of the previous year's crop. Indications are for a favorable blossom bud condition with a good outlook for a normal bloom next spring.—C. Lyman Calahan, Sec'y, Burlington.

Citrus displays in the future will not only look elegant but will smell that way too. Vials of liquid with orange, grapefruit, tangerine, lemon, and lime odors have been furnished fieldmen by the Florida Citrus Commission. It's up to the fieldmen whether they squirt the liquid on citrus displays to attract customers or use the vials to interest the trade.

Hurricane Damage

NEW JERSEY — Hurricane Hazel caused serious damage, with 700,000 to 800,000 bushels of apples, mostly Rome and Stayman, blown to the ground. Young trees were tilted, but breakage generally was not serious.—E. G. Christ, Sec'y, New Brunszeick.

The Three R's

OHIO—Fruit growers attending the meeting of the Ohio State Horticultural Society February 9-11 may think they're back in school. Theme of the meeting is "The Three R's of Orcharding—Removal, Renewal, Rebuilding." Meetings will be held at the Neil House in Columbus.—C. W. Ellenwood, Sec'y, Wooster.

New Directors

MINNESOTA—Two new directors of the Minnesota Fruit Growers Association were elected at the annual meeting November 4 in Winona. They are Oscar Sorby of Montevideo and Wilburt Vollenwieder of La Crescent. The latter will fill the unexpired term of his brother, Henry, who is orcharding in Missouri. Directors re-elected were William A. Benitt of Hastings, F. F. Isaacs of Mahtomedi, Glenn F. Harms of Red Wing, and L. R. Lautz of La Croscent.—J. D. Winter, Sec'y, St. Paul.

Obituaries . . .

George A. Rioux of Rexford, N.Y., prominent apple grower and owner of several orchards in Saratoga County, died on October 31. He was president of the Capital District Apple Growers Association, an honorary life member of the New York State Horticultural Society, and a committeeman of the Saratoga County Farm Bureau.

Bureau.
Prof. G. M. Bentley, president of the Tennessee State Horticultural Society in 1949 and secretary-treasurer for nearly 40 years, died at his home in Knoxville on October 8, at 79 years of age.

DECEMBER, 1954

"My 16-year-old son does the spraying now that we have a Myers Concentrate rig",





Orchard Sprayer



Myers GP General Purpose Sprayer

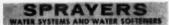
Young Bill Tower can apply a cover spray to 135 acres of apples, peaches, pears and cherries in just one-third the time it used to take his dad and a hired man, using dilute equipment.

Tower's spray-record book also reveals he saved nearly 15,000 gallons of water in applying 14 cover sprays last season. This is because a Myers Concentrate Sprayer requires just one-fourth the water needed by dilute equipment.

Savings are important, but what about fruit quality? According to Tower, he had the finest crop of Duchess apples he ever had. His Macs looked good, too; and fruit buyers told him his cherries were among the finest in the county.

Many leading growers are finding concentrate spraying the Myers way can open the door to more orchard profits. Your nearby Myers sprayer dealer will gladly demonstrate the Myers Concentrate Sprayer in your own orchard. Call him today.







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"STAINLESS-STEEL STREAMLINER"

(Stainless Steel Tank Standard Equipment)



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- . STAINLESS STEEL TANK (200 gal.)
- STREAMLINED TO PREVENT TREE AND FRUIT DAMAGE
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Five for the large or small grower.



By HENRY BAILEY STEVENS

Offered: Prize

THE Christmas season A Monthly seems an appropriate time to propose making windfalls real in this

column. We hereby offer an award of \$10 for the No. 1 original contribution published each month, reserving the right to split the amount where such a solution seems desirable, or to cancel it if in a given month no selection seems suitable.

So, dear readers, please collect your thoughts. Consider the interesting human incidents that have happened in your orchard career, whether bright and colorful or tragic. Or tell us in simple words those sustaining thoughts or philosophy which have helped you to find a fruit-farm life worth living. Or state the human problem you are facing, even if it seems insoluble. Perhaps some un-

expected help will appear.

Our hope is that this column may serve to draw out some of the underlying faith which keeps an orchard family going in these tumultuous times. If you wish to be published anonymously, we will respect your desire, but indicate your real name and address so that we may plump the right person on the head with a windfall of 10-dollar bills.

Month's Winner

THE award this month goes to Barney Peltz, manager of Rainbow Ranch Orchard, Middle

Island, N.Y., a young grower who has been working around orchards for about 10 years, and who nevertheless has kept something of the spirit which moved Robert Louis Stevenson to

"Up into the cherry tree Who should climb but little Me? I held the trunk with both my hands And looked abroad on foreign lands."

Mr. Peltz writes:

"Well, it's time to start thinking about "Well, it's time to start thinking about pruning again. All my tools are sharpened and ready to go. Now what was that article about Pruning I read in AMERICAN FRUIT GROWER? As I sit on a limb I ponder my next move. Here I sit, cutting branches and twigs. Nature wants the limb to go this way. I want it to go that way. Who will win? The tree is too tall, the branches too thick. This is an 'off year.' Guess I'll just thin it a little. thin it a little. .

"My mind's made up, I'm going to try that new chemical! Gosh, it sounds good!

I've checked my compatability chart and find it's safe. It's been raining too much—40 hours wet at 55°; there's danger of infection. The wind's down; it's just right for spraying. .

and the orchard floor is clean. Time to mow! What's poison ivy good for any-

way?...
"Well, the wind's sure blowing tonight.
You say 'let it blow?' Don't you know it's
Mac time? Wonder what the price will be
this year. Somebody turn off the heat;

we need more color. . . .
"Let's see: ladders, picking bags, boxes pickers, packers, shippers. Come on, Men! All this and I can't even go to Florida! . . . "After all is said and done, when some-

one comes along and bites into an apple and his face lights up and he says 'Best apple I've ever tasted,' then it's worth it

The principal interest in Mr. Peltz's contribution is perhaps not in his review of the year's activities but in his conclusion. It is no doubt extravagant. The praise of customers for his product would hardly have kept him in the orchard business for 10 years if he hadn't succeeded in making a living out of it. But the satisfaction in a job well done is one of the powerful guy wires that keep us stationed at the task.

Who's THE J. D. Hamilton Company of Wenata Piker chee, Wash., put it this way in one of their interesting "appletters" last June, in commenting on the gambling spirit of California-Arizona lettuce growers:

"All power to these boys! But any Northwestern Appleman would declare those desert-lettuce rats out-and-out pikers, compared with the year 'round gamble that we guys constantly take!

"Our apple-lands are worth \$2,000-\$3,000 per acre. . . We carry our young plantings at least 10 years as dead expense before they are self-supporting. We

plantings at least 10 years as dead expense before they are self-supporting. . . We gamble that this year's planted varieties will be in demand 10 to 40 years hence. . . . We spend at least \$1,000 per acre from December 'til next September in growing each year's crop. . We've already been winter-killed, droughted, spring-frosted and hailed-out, and still have a succession of deadly insects and diseases to combat. Then we carry the harvested fruit in our cold storages from October until June-July in part, all in the interests of 'orderly market-

"Anybody want in on a share of our 300 acres of Chelan-Manson apple-land? It's a beautiful gamble, and we love every

How's this for spirit? Let's have your comments, folks.

A Thought SANTA CLAUS deserves to be the patron Christmas saint of all orchardists.

Does he not in an hour's time transform an evergreen into a Tree bearing all sorts of remarkable fruit?

Address your "Windfalls" contributions to Henry Bailey Stevens, American Fruit Grower, Willoughby, Ohio.



How To Beat the Labor Shortage!

Mechanized handling with CLARK trucks is a time-tested solution to the labor shortage which is facing growers and processors. And equally important, you'll make more money by drastically reducing costs. Here are some FACTS* about fruit handling with fork trucks:

- A 25,000-bushel apple crop was handled at-thefarm with one fork truck and a crew of 3 men; previously required a crew of 7.
- One processor reported that fork trucks on his receiving platform enable 15 men to do the work that formerly required 60.
- In one case in Michigan, the manual-labor cost of loading cherries onto trucks was 56.5c per 100 lugs; when a fork truck handled the same job, the labor cost was 4.7c.

In addition, fork truck handling has proved that it will reduce bruising, cut grading and packing costs, reduce overtime work, reduce spillage, reduce crate and lug breakage.

Don't pass up this opportunity to eliminate headaches and save big money! Discuss it with your local CLARK dealer - he's listed in the Yellow Pages of your 'phone book, under "Trucks, Industrial."

*These and other interesting facts are contained in a booklet, "Fruit Handling With Fork-Lift Trucks," published by the Michigan State College Agricultural Experimental Station, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Use the coupon to get a

Industrial Truck Division CLARK EQUIPMENT COMPAN	Y, Battle Creek 142, Mich.
☐ Please send free booklet on f ☐ Please have representative ca	
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EQUIPMENT	City Zone State

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Thorough coverage of trees from ground to top-center and complete penetration of dense foliage result from the large volume air capacity of John Bean's axial-flow fans and full-pattern distribution of sprey materials.

Quickly and easily, you can tailor your spray pattern to meet orchard and wind conditions. You put the right amount of spray material where it's needed with John Bean's efficient directional controls and readily adjustable banks of nozzles.



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First, in 1941, with Speed Sprayer, John Bean pioneered the "air-age" in orchard spraying. First again, in 1955, John Bean announces the "Air-Age 8"... EIGHT proven models of air sprayers that now make it possible for every grower to produce better fruit at less cost.

Save time, save labor, save spray materials, and do the fast, thorough job needed during critical spraying periods with the "work-rated" John Bean air sprayer that's exactly right for your orchard or grove.

Clean fruit that commands top market prices is yours when your orchard or grove is protected by a John Bean Air Sprayer. You spray fast . . . on time , . . and put the protection where you want it with accurate "zoned" spraying and complete through-the-tree penetration. Spray concentrate, semi-concentrate or dilute. You can reduce operating costs safely with the economical, one-man operation of a John Bean Air Sprayer.

Be first with John Bean in 1955! Choose the sprayer that's "work-rated" for your orchard or grove from the "Air-Age Eight"! See it in action. Ask your John Bean dealer for a demonstration.



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Division of Food Machinery and Chemical Corporation



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- ECONOMICAL

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for Full

Heavy-duty implement built specifically for cutting brush and control cover crops in orchard, vineyard. Due to light draft, Edwards Culti-Cutter can be pulled at high speed. And by use of independent rotors it may be turned easily at end of rows. Hitch is adjustable in length for any type tractor, and may be offset to work under trees.

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HALE FIRE PUMP CO

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Brush chipper made by Fitchburg Engineering Corp., Fitchburg, Mass., chips prunings into fertilizing mulch, holds maisture above trees



The Marden Duplex can be set at different angles to mow, harrow, chip, or cultivate, works in rough ground. Marden Mfg. Co., Auburndale, Fia.



Hardened steel-tipped Balls on Roto-beater
"Brute" made by Gate City Steel, Inc., Boise,
Idaho, chop brush as large as 2½" in diameter.



Cuiti-cutter made by Edwards Equipment Co., 4312 Main St., Yakima, Wash., destroys mice runways, it replaces brush rake, mowers, disc.

AMERICAN FRUIT GROWER

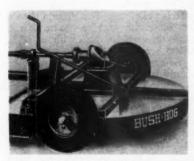
Chop prunings where they fall, return nutrients to soil in mulch, conserve moisture around trees



Propeller-type blades of AUSCO Rotary Shredder and Cutter don't need sharpening, won't shatter. Auto Specialties Mfg. Co., St. Joseph, Mich.



Rollamulcher, made by John Bean Division, Bax 840, Lansing 4, Mich., chops prunings with rotary blades, breaks up sod, aids moisture penetration.



Rotary cutter of Bush Hog Sales Co., Selma, Ala., lowers and lifts automatically, saved one fruit grower \$360 in labor in two days.



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Brush Disposal Time Cut In Half

WOODS ROTARY CUTTER FOR BRUSH SHREDDING AND MOWING

SHREDDING AND MOWING
Mr. Albert J. Livesey of Barnesville, Ohio
told the 107th Annual Meeting of the
Ohio State Horticultural Society of actual
results with his Woods Rotary Cutter. He
said, "We have no exact record of time
saved but we feel that at least half is saved.
While we have had only one season's experience, we feel that a Woods Rotary Cutter for brush disposal in the orchard is one
of 'the finds' of our day. We have never, I
believe, found anything about which we are
so enthusiastic.



Machine shown is Offset Model 80 with orchard shield. 9 other models 42" to 114".

"Its use is not limited to brush disposal. It's the 'cat's meow' for orchard mowing."
"Two or three farmers here have said that this Rotary Cutter is the best machine on their farms. The general farmer has many uses for this cutter. Corn stubble or corn stalks left after picking can quickly be put in shape for plowing or discing."

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TRIANGLE BRAND COPPER SULPHATE BORDEAUX MIXTURE gives added assurance of a yield of quality fruits that means extra profits to you. It controls fire blight on apple and pear, Mycosphaerella leaf spot of pear, peach leaf curl, black knot of plum and prune, brown rot and leaf spot of plum and prune, leaf blight and fruit spot of quince, leaf spots of currants and gooseberries, downy mildew of grape, black rot of grape, and powdery mildew of grape.

For more than 50 years, prosperous commercial growers have obtained better yields at less cost by using TRIANGLE BRAND COPPER SULPHATE to protect their fruit crops. We recommend that you do the same.

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symptoms of hay fever, asthma, sinus beadaches, pressure in forehead, soreness in eyes,
cheek bones, top of head, back of head and
down neck, temporary hard of hearing, loss
of smell and taste, drip and drainage of nose
and throat, can't think straight or see well at
for 7 DAY FREE TRIAL, POSTPAID:
Write
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or obligation to try it except; it is agreed you
will mail it back, postpaid at end of trial
period if not amazed with results.

American Laboratories, Lodi, California.

DAMAGED TREES

(Continued from page 9)

ago a few young trees in one of their plantings were blown down. They were left in the horizontal position. Since that time the branches have turned upward and a satisfactory bearing surface has been developed.

Care of Horizontal Trees

If apple trees are allowed to remain in a horizontal position, the branches which are next to the ground must be removed. The remaining branches will need to be thinned out to reduce the amount of small, poorly colored fruit in the center of the tree. The lowest branches on the trunk should be encouraged to develop in an erect position and produce laterals which extend back over the root.

If the ground was loosened when the trees was blown over, an attempt should be made to close up any air spaces which may exist around the roots. If the soil is of a light sandy texture, it may be jarred and tamped back in place. If the ground is heavy it will be necessary to use water to puddle the soil back around the roots. The use of liberal amounts of water is very important.

Bracing Salvaged Trees

In some cases it may seem desirable to pull the trees into a vertical position. Care should be exercised to avoid additional damage to the roots. If soil has accumulated under the trunk it should be removed before the tree is pulled up. The ground should be thoroughly wet so the roots can slide through the soil without additional breakage.

After the tree is erect it must be firmly braced to hold it in position. Guy wires in at least three directions are advisable. The stakes holding the guy wires seem to hold better if driven into the ground straight rather than at a slant. A No. 10 wire is a

suitable size.

Several methods of fastening wires have been used. Some growers attach the wires directly to branches in the top of the tree and later remove the branch. In this way there is no need to be concerned about girdling, but more wire will be needed for the bracing operation. If the wire is placed around the trunk a protective loop of hose may be used to prevent girdling. This method of bracing is not as satisfactory as the ones described below.

The procedures suggested by W. H. Thies, extension horticulturist in Massachusetts, in a recent issue of Fruit Notes are worthy of consideration. Thies writes:

"The methods followed by two growers have been quite practical. In





both cases the guy wire was inserted through a hole drilled in the trunk. Grower No. 1 used a galvanized and twisted type of wire, and stakes 24 inches long made by sawing diagonally a piece of fir 2x4, each piece making two stakes. A 3/8-inch hole was bored horizontally through the tree in line with the direction of pull. The ends of the wire of proper length were stapled to two stakes.

"The center portion of the wire was then doubled over, inserted through the hole and through a metal washer on the side farthest from the stakes, bent downward, and stapled about 8 inches below the hole. The washer was placed against the end of the hole to prevent the wires from cutting into the tree trunk. The stakes were then driven in with resulting tension on the wires. The angle between the wire and the horizontal was in no case more than 45°. Where more than two stakes were needed, one or two additional stakes were placed, with similarly attached wires, at selected points around the tree.'

"Grower No. 2 used a somewhat heavier type of ordinary iron wire with the idea that it would hold up at

Detailed instructions for making a special machine for orchard mouse control are available from the Rodent Control Office. University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

least three years before rusting through and by that time the tree should be on the way to the re-establishment of its root system. A 5/8inch hole was bored horizontally through the tree, but at right angles to the direction of pull. Two stakes were placed in such positions that they would provide support where most needed. The wire was then in-serted through the hole and the two ends wrapped around the stakes. No staples were used. Where support in other directions was needed, an exact duplicate of this setup with two additional stakes and another piece of wire on the other side of the tree was provided, the one hole serving for both pieces of wire."

It is essential that guy wires be kept tight to prevent the trees swaying.

Replace Damaged Roots

Experience with trees blown down by previous hurricanes has demonstrated that there is very little new growth from the ends of roots which have been broken off. Therefore, some method of providing new roots should be followed.

The best method of supplying new roots is to plant young seedling trees around the base of the damaged tree and inarch them into the trunk about two feet above the ground. The inarching is done by a side graft technique using a long sloping cut on

(Continued on page 22)



World's finest pruner. Cuts crisp and clean. Anvil-type, no turn or rwist in cutting. Dy-namic hinge bolt and nut keeps blades per-fectly aligned. Bril-liant chrome-plated body and handle. Im-proved blade design. Fully tempered.

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DAMAGED TREES

(Continued from page 21)

the top of the seedling tree and fitting this into a similar-sized opening in the bark of the trunk of the damaged tree. The beveled end at the top of the seedling should be firmly attached to the trunk with small nails and the entire wound covered with asphalt wound dressing or grafting wax.

The inarching operation involves considerable expense. It is difficult to pull the trees to a vertical position and hold them there. The guy wires are expensive to install and must be kept tight for several years. Mowing and other orchard operations are more difficult with guy wires extend-ing out from the trees. All of these factors are reasons why the salvaging operation may not be an economical procedure, particularly with trees which are more than 20 years old.

Pruning Salvaged Trees

Regardless of whether the trees are left on the ground or are pulled erect, they must be given special care the following year. Pruning should be moderate because a large leaf surface is necessary to provide food materials to help the damaged roots become reestablished. If excessive root damage has occurred it may be advisable to prune more heavily to reduce the need for water until the root system is re-established.

Fertilizer should be applied in early spring and within reach of injured

roots.

Damaged trees need a liberal supply of water. If irrigation is not available, se of mulch around the trees is advisable to help conserve soil moisture. The fruit crop should be thinned heavily to reduce the demand for water and food materials.

Mice must be controlled. Damaged roots form callus tissue which is especially palatable to mice. If the ground is loose it should be firmed down. Particular attention should be given THE END to mouse poisoning.

Fruit Production at a Glance

	Average 1943-52	1953	USDA Nov. 1 Est. 1954
	Tho	usand Bush	els
Apples	105,802	92,877	103,716
Eastern	43,893	38,848	49,852
Central	18,377	17,779	16,149
Western	43,532	36,250	37,715
Pears	30,466	29,081	30,327
		Tons	
Grapes	2,951,090	2,696,000	2,705,100
Almonds	36,370	38,600	43,900
Walnuts	72,770	59,200	77,500
Filberts	7,936	4,960	8,650
Pecans	133,575	211,660	96,600
Improved	60,477	102,905	41,607
Wild & Seedling	73,098	108,755	54,993
		Barrels	
Cranberries	787,300	1,203,300	973,500

HOW TO PRUNE

(Continued from page 10)

systems, especially the system whereby thin wood is removed from the inside of trees. Gale's thoughts on this question were that if the outside branches are shortened, more sunlight would get to the inside branches, causing them to grow into vigorous bearing wood. Thus the heavy crops would be borne on a larger tree surface, they would be closer to the main trunk, and chances of limb breakage would be greatly reduced. Now after eight years of trial all this has been realized in the Gale orchard.

With this system, heavy pruning is necessary the first two or three years to properly shape the trees, and then only light annual prunings.

Alex now has one man who does practically all the pruning during the winter months, and he does it mostly from the ground with pole pruner and shears. He keeps watersprouts cleaned out except where he may want a new branch to develop, keeps outside branches headed back to proper length, and removes just a little wood from the inside of the tree-just enough so the tree does not become dense. The job requires about 10 to 20 minutes per tree.

This pruning system has performed equally as well on all varieties in the Gale orchard, which include Deli-cious, Golden Delicious, Jonathan, McIntosh, and Cortland.

Alex Gale points to several advantages in following his pruning system. Less time is required for annual prunings, and no hand thinning of fruit is necessary. Alex has done no hand or chemical thinning during the past eight years, and he has had annual production on all varieties, even Golden Delicious. A bumper crop is not produced each year, but neither does Alex experience a light crop year any more.

Pickers Prefer the Smaller Trees

Another big advantage has shown up at harvesttime. Pickers want to pick in the Gale orchard, even at five cents per bushel less than they would receive in other orchards. They like to pick here because trees are smaller, fruit is thicker, and picking is faster.

Spraying and other orchard activities are also done now with greater ease and thoroughness in the Gale orchard. Fertilization is carried out on a moderate scale. The orchard is kept in permanent sod. By keeping trees dwarfed, more can be planted per acre, which raises the per acre production. Many of Gale's trees last year picked 20 bushels per tree, and practically all above the 21/2-inch size. Prunings are left where they THE END



Growers everywhere acclaim the revolutionary new Hardie Hurricane 2-Fan

Air Blast Sprayer as the outstanding advancement in the whole history of pest control equipment.

The great Hurricane Model 26-A introduced to the grower a year ago has proved that two fans are far better than one. It has delivered absolutely unmatched performance in all fruit growing areas.

This year Hardie has perfected two more Hurricane 2-fan sprayers to meet the acreage and the budget of every grower. These new Hurricanes, Model DF-26B and Model DF-24B, establish a thrilling new perfection in streamlined design, as well as in performance. Here is your sprayer of today



The Hardie Hurricane fan assembly is an engineering triumph never before achieved in the sprayer industry. The multi-blade fans, scientifically spaced, provide an even, uniform air volume and velocity over the entire radius of the fan housing. No volutes nor attachments of any kind are required to adapt the Hurricane to any spraying requirement.



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Left—Pruning platform at Crumpacker Orchards, Roanoke, Va., has three sliding catwalks, can be raised and lowered hydraulically by hooking compressor to vertical supports. Cost of the platform including truck was \$5,000. Phote by R. Alken.



Above—Four-cotwalk platform at Bille Lupin peace ranch, Delhi, Calift, has 20-foot spread. Switchbor on each catwalk permits worker to move his catwalk up, down, in, or out. Photo by R. Coppock walk up, down, in, or out.





Above—Wooden planks support workers at Pomona Fruit Farm, Appleton, N.Y. Hinged to platform with a swivel joint, planks move in any direction. When moving to another location, operator pulls back on the handle, raising the plank to clear tree limb. Photo by John Staby.

Fruit Grower WESTERN SECTION



Revolution in

THE WALNUT INDUSTRY

California's highly specialized English walnut industry is a lesson in mechanical operation

By O. L. BRAUCHER

California Walnut Growers Association

THE California walnut industry has undergone a mechanical revolution in the last few years. The old methods of knocking or shaking the trees by hand labor have largely been replaced by mechanical shakers. And machine picking is gradually replacing the stoop labor required to pick the nuts up off the ground.

I often wonder what those first California nut growers—the Spanish missionaries who planted our first walnut trees back in the 18th century—would think if they could see a modern walnut grower harvesting his nuts with a mechanical harvester. And wouldn't they be surprised to see our walnut branding machines stamp the "Diamond" brand on our commercial crop of 70 to 80 thousand tons of nuts a year!

The present commercial walnut industry in California received its start from the Sexton selections in Santa Barbara County and the Gillette importations in Nevada County just after the Civil War. These two men can rightly be called the fathers of the California walnut industry.

While the walnut industry was

started in both the northern and southern parts of the state at the same time, it expanded more rapidly in the southern section. Interest in the central and northern sections lagged until just before 1920. Even as late as 1930, nearly 90 per cent of the state tonnage came from the southern part of the state.

Today only 25 per cent of the state crop is produced in the southern section. The total bearing and non-bearing acreage today is nearly 138,000 acres, compared with 97,000 acres in 1930.

The industry received a big impetus with the introduction of a walnutbranding machine that puts the "Dia-



One of several types of mechanical harvesters in use in California walnut orchards. Hood on ground across front of tractor shields pickup fingers. Cross conveyor empties walnuts and debris into elevator and thence to back of machine into bags or bulk trailers.

WESTERN SECTION

mond" name on each nutshell, thus identifying it as a California-growing nut. The California Walnut Growers Association worked for seven years to

perfect the machine.

We offered a \$10,000 prize for the mechanical principle, then spent two years working out a machine to brand 2,000 nuts a minute, or a 30,000-pound carload a day. By 1926 we had 125 machines running at a cost of only five cents per 100-pound bag, or one-thirtieth the cost of small sealed cartons on which the name had previously been stamped.

The average California walnut grower owns 30 to 40 acres of walnuts that produce at least a ton of nuts

per acre after drying. The majority of these nuts will be large-sized and of first quality.

His major farming equipment consists of a medium-sized tractor and truck, cultivating tools such as a disc, a ridger, a furrowing machine, land leveler or smoother to prepare the surface soil for harvesting, mechanical shaker and harvester, bulk trailers to haul nuts from the field, a huller, and a dehydrator.

His investment in the walnut business will be between \$1,900 and \$2,000 per acre. Of this he will spend approximately \$1,200 per acre for land and trees. The irrigation water supply, either in the form of a well,

pump, and pipelines or ownership of shares or purchase rights in a water district or company would be about \$250 per acre; and his investment in farm buildings and equipment would amount to about \$475 per acre, exclusive of a house to live in.

He is a relatively stable type of farmer—he has to be to content himself with planting a tree crop which may not reach good commercial bearing for from 12 to 16 years. This points up a question a prospective purchaser should always ask. It is, "How many times has this orchard been sold in the last 10 years?" Good walnut orchards do not usually change owners with great frequency.

The walnut grower has his annual battle with insects, including the codling moth, red spider, and aphis, as most orchardists do. However, modern spray equipment, plus the newer types of insecticide, enable the conscientious farmer to do an effective job in controlling insect pests.

Specialized Business

The growing of walnuts is a specialized business, as many inexperienced persons have discovered. A few of the major factors affecting successful walnut growing are soil type, climate, water supply and quality, and variety. If any of these factors is not "right," one can expect only a mediocre orchard at best. There are many things a farmer can do to make his venture either a success or failure, but he cannot remake a shallow adobe soil into a good loam, nor can he make poor quality water good, nor irrigate properly with an insufficient water supply. By the same token, a variety suitable to the cool coastal climates of southern California can be a near-failure in the warm interior valleys.

No successful tree crop industry goes through nearly 90 years of growth without the usual ups and downs, but the rewards and successes from walnut-growing are much greater than the setbacks that occur occasionally.

The End

ELECTRONIC NUTCRACKER

THE world's first electronic nutcracker is being used exclusively by Northwest Nut Growers. The group boasts that their machine is the only one to crack the walnut, separate the meat from the shell, and carry away the waste shells.

A high voltage blast explodes the walnut, and the nut meat drops onto a conveyor that carries it away for separating from the shattered shell. Cracking goes on at 1,200 pounds per hour, and breakage of meats is said to be greatly reduced.

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Pacific

NEWS AND VIEWS

On Almond Size, Fruit Flies, Water Core, and Lots More

Seek Smaller Almonds

If you grow almonds, be on the lookout for trees or a single limb of a tree that may happen to produce smaller nuts. Present trees produce almonds that are too large for the confectionery industry, which uses from 50 to 60 per cent of the almonds produced in California. Anyone who comes up with a high-quality variety which produces small almonds will find quite a demand for his tree. If you know of such a tree, or a branch get in touch with Dale E. Kester, College of Agriculture, University of California, Davis. He is in charge of a breeding program for small almonds.

For the first time in the history of Washington pear-growing, the price for canning pears was set prior to harvest by representatives of growers bargaining with the canners. Over 400 growers controlling some 26,500 tons of pears in the Wenatchee and Yakima Valleys make up the Washington Canning Pear Association.

Polyethylene Liners

It is estimated that between 750,000 and 1,000,000 boxes of Bartletts and winter pears are being packed in polyethylene lined boxes this season. Fruit put up in the polyethylene liners has a six- to eight-week longer storage period. In addition, the shelf life of the pears at retail is extended to 10 days. The liners are also recommended for use with Golden Delicious apples, to prevent shriveling and moisture loss in storage.

Low humidity and high summer temperatures make it difficult to grow Concord variety of grapes in California. The foliage sunburns, resulting in poor maturity of the fruit. However, new selections are under trial that might well substitute for the Concord. The new selections have double the usual chromosome number, and produce larger-than-normal fruits. The most promising one ripens earlier than Concord, withstands summer heat, has much larger berries, and excellent yield. Commercial tests of the juice are now in progress.

Wenatchee apples are now going south to California in trucks made of aluminum, also manufactured in Wenatchee. The big trailer and tractor is all aluminum, including the tractor cab, frame, gas tanks, and wheels, except for the driving wheels. Loaded with apples, the entire unit weighs 23 tons, an average of two and one-half tons lighter than comparable units.

Grower of the Year

Grady Auvil, widely known for the top quality apples, peaches, and pears he produces in his Orondo, Wash., orchards, has been named 1954 "Grower of the Year" for north central Washington. The unanimous selection of Mr. Grady for the honor was made by the Wenatchee Chamber of Commerce agriculture group, of which Dr. Archie Van Doren is chairman.

Water core is a baffling disease of apples for which scientists have not yet found a solution. Apples affected with water core have a watery or glassy appearance. Sometimes practically the whole apple is affected, but more often the condition is confined to spots or streaks. One theory is that water core is caused by variations in rainfall. However, California research workers now point out that high concentration of cell fluid is more responsible. Water core is most common in the arid or semi-arid sections, and it is felt that the degree of shade and the intensity of sunlight have a greater bearing on the occurrence of water core than either irrigation or fertilization.

Virus-free Sweet Cherries

California fruit growers and nurserymen who wish to propagate sweet cherries may obtain virus-free budwood from the University of California at Davis. Pomologist Reid M. Brooks says that 200 to 400 or more buds of each variety, depending upon demand, are available. Varieties included are Bing, Black Tartarian, Royal Ann, Republican, Deacon. Van, Lambert, and Burbank. Propagation with virus-free budwood may give successful take of more than 95 per cent, which is far above the average with infected budwood. In addition, the use of virus-free budwood prevents the spread of deadly virus diseases.

Three Wenatchee apples nestled in a wicker basket atop the curls of Washington State Apple Blossom Queen Carol Lee Jessep took second place in a hairdress parade sponsored by the Washington Hairdressers' Association at their state convention in Seattle. Queen Carol's hairdress was complemented by a red jersey blouse and white felt skirt on which was appliqued a big red apple with the words, "Miss Washington Delicious." Carol Lee's mother designed her hairdo.

Spraying Carelessness

If you or your helpers are inclined to be careless with orchard spray chemicals, get a copy of the 34th Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture of the state of California. Pages 327, 328, and 329 tell about injuries to persons and livestock from agricultural chemicals and graphically describe the dangers resulting from careless handling. One case with a happy ending tells of a young sprayman who refused to wash himself or take further precautions when a parathion spray mixture accidentally splashed in his face, and with careless bravado drank twice from a weir box from which the spray tank was being filled. He became seriously ill, but recovered after hospitalization.

Earliest grapes in the nation come from Coachella Valley of southern California. Shipments began last year around the first of June, at which time 24-pound boxes were selling for as high as \$13 on the New York market. During the middle of the season when supplies were at the heaviest the price on the same market was only about \$4 a box. Harvest ends around the middle of July.

Declare War on Fruit Fly

War has been declared, and American sprayers have been moved to the Mexican border to repel the invasion of the Mexican fruit fly. The main citrus-infesting fruit fly of Mexico, the Mexican fruit fly, destroys large quantities of fruit in Mexico and Texas. To fight off the fly, all trees within a five-mile radius of the border on the American side have been sprayed. More than 3,000 trees on residential properties and on 600 acres of commercial plantings in the area were treated. Intensive trapping operations are being carried on. The California Fruit Exchange has adopted a resolution calling for federal funds to combat the fruit fly invasion.



California walnut orchards are usually intercropped until the trees come into production. Photograph shows a four-year-old walnut orchard in southern California intercropped with beans



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AMERICAN FRUIT GROWER

Willoughby, Ohio

UTAH AND IDAHO HORT PROGRAMS

TAH growers will be in Salt Lake City December 10-11 for the Fruit Growers Short Course and Horticultural Convention to be held at Hotel Utah, reports Acting Secretary A. Stark, of Salt Lake City.

Utah State College specialists will have a very active part in the program. They will tell how to control specific insects and diseases, such as worms and catfacing in peaches, mites, viruses and cankers of stone fruits, etc.

Prof. C. E. Scott of the University of California will tell growers about mildew control in apples and pears, also fire blight control.

Dr. John C. Snyder of Washington State College and secretary of Washington State Horticultural Association, in his two appearances on the program, will tell about new orchard plantings and renewing old orchards, as well as how cherries and peaches are grown in Washington.

Another featured out-of-state speaker will be Dr. L. P. Batjer, USDA, Wenatchee, Wash. He will bring growers up-to-date on methods of growing apples and pears in Washington, and the use of chemicals in fruit thinning and in controlling preharvest drop.

Prof. Clarence Ashton of Brigham Young University will cover a subject all growers will be interested in. He will tell how Utah growers can increase yields.

Raspberries and strawberries will also receive attention in the two-day program loaded with material grow-

ers can use.

Idaho Growers to Meet in Boise

Speakers selected thus far for the 60th annual meeting of the Idaho Horticultural Society to be held February 10-11 in Boise include Leif Verner, University of Idaho, who will speak on prune disorders; Bill Luce, Yakima, Wash., who will discuss new apple varieties and red sports; and Gerald Thorne, USDA nematologist. who will talk on nematodes in orchards, reports Anton S. Horn, secretary, Boise.

OREGON CHERRIES MAY FIND NEW MARKETS

OREGON growers of sweet cherries may soon find new markets for their fruit. The fruit fly problem which has banned shipment of Oregon-grown cherries to "fruit flystates-notably Californiafree" may be licked.

S. C. Jones, Oregon State College entomologist, has found a way to fumigate sweet cherries to control cherry fruit fly larvae and pupae.

In fumigating tests last year, Jones killed every one of the fly larvae and pupae, using ethylene dibromide gas in the ratio of one-half pound of fumigant per 1,000 cubic feet for two hours.

While there was a slight off-flavor in the treated cherries, this diminished after the first day and was practically

gone in four days.

If trials next year prove successful, an experimental shipment will probably be made to California for inspection.

NEW BERRY STRAINS MAY SOLVE DISEASE

POUR new strains of the Northwest strawberry may prove to be the answer to a foliage speckle disease that has shown up in that variety in

the last two years.

The new strains were developed by C. D. Schwartze and A. S. Myhre of the Western Washington Experiment Station. These men also developed the present commercial strain of the Northwest strawberry which now makes up nearly half of the state's commercial production.

"This leaf speckling showed up in 1952, and has been spreading ever since,' ' explains Schwartze. though the virus-like disorder is by no means so devastating to berry production as yellows has been to the Marshall strawberry variety, it must be taken seriously. These four new strains don't seem to have the disease, and we hope they'll be the answer."

Commercial berry growers won't be able to get plants from the new strains for a couple of years. Before the situation becomes serious, however, there should be plenty of plants available. By 1957 the new strains should be producing 15 million plants annually, or enough to plant all new acreage of the Northwest variety.

ANALYZE PEAR LEAVES IN SOIL STUDY

IN an effort to learn why apparently high-nutrient soils sometimes fail to supply trees with needed plant food, Oregon State College experiment station workers have taken leaf samples from 80 Hood River pear orchards. The leaves will be analyzed chemically and later compared with soil samples from the area.

O. C. Compton, director of the survey, said that water supply, soil structure, and soil temperature all affect the availability of soil nutrients. The 80 orchards sampled are in the lower, middle, and upper valleys which vary widely in temperature and soil type. The survey will serve as a basis for fertilizer recommendations. -Robert Birdsall.

AMERICAN FRUIT GROWER WESTERN SECTION

POLLEN...



Startling Results of Pollination in 1953

in John Dicus Orchard, Tonasket, Washington, as shown at left. There were no pollinators in this orchard and no previous crop from these 9-year-old trees. For \$200 spent on pollinating, earned \$3,000. Fruit growers in Canada and the United States are getting outstanding results from a number of methods of application: HAND BRUSH, POLE DUSTER, and BEEHIVE INSERT. An Idaho Grower gets results with the NEW HAND DUSTER idea on cherries. Pollen supplied for Walnuts, Apples, Pears, Cherries, Plums, Peaches, Apricots, etc. Pollination results in 1954 have been outstanding.

L. C. Antles, B.S., M.S.

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COMPARE 45,000 Airmaster* yes yes yes yes yes Sprayer "A"* yes yes no yes o figure Sprayer "B"* no no given by mfr. no yes Sprayer "C"* no yes Sprayer "D" no

*Figures taken from manufacturers' specifications.

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FOR FINER FRUIT

From where I sit ... by Joe Marsh

Granny Drives But Won't "Shift"

Saw Grandma Taylor parking her 1924 Franklin out front the other day. Neat as a pin, radiator and hub caps gleaming-the whole car is as shiny as the day she bought it 30 years ago.

Then I stopped and looked again -for there, hanging on the spare tire was a sign: "This car NOT for sale."

Asked Granny what was going on. "Joe," she says, "it's this craze for old cars. Everybody wants to buy my Franklin. But it has served me faithfully for years and it's not for sale at any price."

From where I sit, it's strictly the new cars for me-but Grandma Taylor, and others, are certainly welcome to their "old faithfuls." It's simply a question of personal preference. Same with a choice of beverages. For instance, I like a temperate glass of beer with supper. You may prefer coffee. Fine! The important thing is that we respect each other's choice-and "ride along smoothly" together.

Goe Marsh

1955 Airmaster



As new as the '55 cars is the new Airmaster airblast sprayer. Powered with a 101 HP Ford industrial engine and equipped with a 36-inch axial fan, it develops 45,250 cfm of air with a velocity of from 80-90 mph. The Airmaster can also work a hand spraying unit using the tractor power take-off. The pump is the ever popular Friend, producing 35 gpm. Overall cost is surprisingly low, and the 400-gallon all-steel tank makes for real orchard spraying economy. Write to Fred Ganshaw, Jr., Friend Manufacturing Co., Gasport, N. Y., and you will receive a full description. Actual demonstrations can also be arranged.

Utility Orchard Knife



The handiest pocket orchard tool I've seen in a long time is the "Slim-R" orchard knife. Made by a grower in Florida, it is ideal for budding, grafting, cutting bark, testing fruit, and many other jobs. Made of finest Soligen steel, the knife costs only \$3.50. A wonderful Christmas present for the grower. Write Bill Randall, Jr., Box 1988-G, Orlando,

PHIX Scab

A new organic mercury fungicide has been used with much success by Illinois growers this year. PHIX is a dry concentrate which makes for easy mixing and handling. Orchardtested by growers and experiment station personnel in the northeast-



ern, north central, and eastern fruit

• FORK LIFT ATTACHMENT

AIRMASTER SPRAYER

growing regions of the country, PHIX has given outstanding performance both as an eradicant and as a protectant when combined with Crag 341. Dr. Morton Kleiman, Chemley Products Co., 14 E. Jackson Blvd., Chicago 4, Ill., will gladly send you information on this new chemical.

Lift for Tractors



Many a grower has been awaiting an attachment which will convert his tractor into a lift truck. The Sherman Fork Lift does the job easily and economically. Now designed to fit all Ford tractors, the fork lift operates hydraulically, lifting loads up to 4000 pounds 10 feet in the air. The unit looks ideal for orchard picking work and cold storage operations, Bob Humes, Sherman Products, Inc., Royal Oak, Mich., will send you full particulars.

Ideal Orchard Power



The other day I saw a new small crawler work in a muddy, hilly orchard. This little unit had unbelievable power, and pulled a Speed Sprayer fully loaded with water through the roughest spots with ease. The tractor is low, moving under branches easily. The driver has full forward vision, and in every way this small crawler looks ideal for the grower. The Kitty Krawler is available with a good selection of implements, and I suggest you write Neil Withrow, Agricultural Implement Division, 321 West "O" St., Lincoln, Nebr., for details.

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GOOD USED LIGHT WEIGHT CONCEN-trate sprayer, Buffalo Turbine or equivalent. C. F. VOYTECH, Rt. 1, Bloomingdale, Michigan.

PEAR PSYLLA

(Continued from page 12)

As the buds begin to swell the female psyllas begin to place their tiny yellow to white eggs in crevices in the twigs close to the buds. Later the eggs are placed on the leaves. These eggs later hatch into tiny psyllas, often called "aymphs." The nymphs move to the leaves, or more often to the leaf stems. There they produce honeydew in large quantities, in which they may be completely submerged.

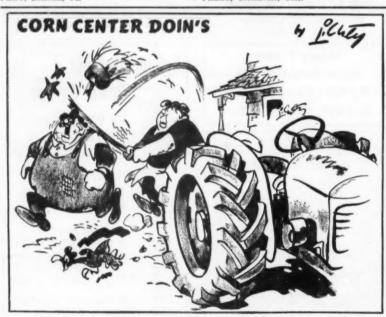
At first the psylla nymphs are a yellow color, then they become greenish, and finally brown to black, when they are often referred to as "bardenish." The insact passes through three or four or more generations a year.

Control: Several insecticle spray treatments are available for control. In some situations control for the season may be obtained by spraying late in the dormant period with oil emulsion, two to four per cent, as used for Son Jose scale. The applications should be made after the first warm weather has brought out the overwintering psyllas, and on days when temperatures are about 50° or a little lower, when the insects are not too active and can be readily hit with the spray. The oil kills many of the agus. He dormant or delayed dormant spray has been applied, or if the insects increase unduly in spite of the dormant applications, summer sprays may be necessary. Until the late 1740's, chief dependence was an the use of nicotine, and this is still highly effective. Nicotine sulfate (40 per cent nicotine) is used at three-fourths plaft to one pint per 100 gallons, combined with either two quarts of summer oil emulsion or with Bordeaux mixture.

In recent years several of the newer insecticides have also been found effective. The one in most general use is parathion, one-haif pound of 15 per cent wettable powder per 100 gallons of water, This may be applied in late dormant period, but for the most part if is used during the summer, whenever the need for it develops. One or two applications during a peason usually give good commercial control.

Farathion is a dangerous material as one insing of spray applicat

Motorists will be attracted to your road-side market—provided it is good-looking and well located. Working drawings for an attractive, easy-to-build stand are avail-able for 50 cents from AMERICAN FRUIT GROWER, Willoughby, Ohio.



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Marketing Agreements Again

CHERRY growers of Michigan have finally taken the bit in their teeth. They have taken steps to secure protection either under the Federal Agricultural Marketing Act or some Michigan state regulation which will protect them against federal prosecution for carrying on practices which they feel essential to the success of their business.

It has taken a long time, but little by little the "little fellow" has come to realize that there is such a thing as cutting off one's nose to spite one's This is what the fruit industry face. east of the Rocky Mountains has been inclined to do.

To be sure, there is much in the Federal Agricultural Marketing Act which is objectionable to many. Nobody likes to be controlled by a bureaucrat. Nobody likes to be told what he can and what he cannot do. Some regimentation practices are enough not only to make the blood pressure reach dangerously high but actually to "blow the top," to put it plainly.

But here is where the misunderstanding has been. Too many fruit growers, especially those east of the Rocky Mountains, have been led to believe that the Agricultural Marketing Act deals solely with acreages, allotments, and controls. This is not so. It is an act which permits growers to get together to solve their own problems and to carry out certain operations which might otherwise be denied by federal antitrust laws. It makes it possible for growers to do under the law that for which they might otherwise be subject to prosecution.

The situation is something like the man who takes out a patent on an invention or gets a copyright on a book. Both of these acts are in restraint of trade and subject to prosecution except for the fact that they are made exceptions under the law and are thereby both permitted and encouraged. We all call this enlightenment and progress, and surely it

This is why the action of Michigan cherry growers is to be commended. It means that fruit growers are beginning to inquire quite properly into some of their rights and privileges. It means that they have begun to question whether some of the advice which they have been receiving may not have been given more in terms of politics than of helping the fruit industry.

There are still more questions that need to be asked, such as why eastern apples were specifically excluded from receiving benefits under the law, and why processed foods were excluded. In whose self interest were these actions taken? Another question is why growers have been led to believe they cannot find ways under the law to get together to talk prices and to carry on other legitimate activities without fear of prosecution.

Yes, there is much in the marketing act and in state marketing agreements that does not apply to the fruit grower and which the fruit grower wants none of. AMERICAN FRUIT GROWER has repeatedly called this to attention. On the other hand, there are some features that can be used to good advantage. This, too, AMERICAN FRUIT GROWER has been pointing out. Seldom is a matter entirely black; there are often some bright spots. It is good that Michigan cherry growers have seen this and that they are taking positive steps.

Merry Christmas

WE approach the Christmas season with a prayer that those who had good crops this year will have better ones next and those whose trees were struck by calamity will have bumper crops next harvest. To all our readers we wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous New Year.

Fruit Growing is Such Fun!



Fruit Talk

The Pacific Fruit Express has in operation a "push button refrigerator car icing service." A man simply pushes buttons to cause 300-pound cakes of ice to be chewed into smaller chunks, which then move along conveyor belts and are dropped at the flick of a finger into cars in the volume desired. At full speed, forty 300-pound cakes of ice may be put into a bunker within a minute.

Dr. C. E. Myers, nationally known plant breeder, has an apple tree at his home in State College, Pa., which boasts 48 varieties, 27 of which bore fruit in 1954. Dr. Myers claims fresh apples from July 25 of one year to June 10 of the next.

Records from Italy show that there were 16- and 32-year cycles in the produc-tion of grapes for the years 1773 to 1842. This coincides with the cycle of sun

A clever development from Germany is a nutrient tablet which when put into a water culture of pot plants slowly evolves oxygen, an element so essential to root development but frequently lacking in water cultures.

The Exact Weight Scale Company of The Exact Weight Scale Company of Columbus, Ohio, has perfected a machine for bagging apples which consists of a belt conveyor on which the fruits are weighed as they move along. When the proper weight is reached, the feed hopper stops but the belt continues to run, emptying the desired weight of fruit into the

In round figures, the total world cherry production is one and one-fourth million tons, of which Europe produces one million tons and North America one-fourth million. Germany (western zone and east-ern zone combined) produces about as ern zone combined) produces about many cherries as the United States.

Indicative of how plants may be spread around the world are recent studies which show that the white-flowered gourd is capable of floating for periods up to 224 days in salt water without having the viability of the seed appreciably impaired. This suggests that this gourd came to America from Africa on South Atlantic

As an average of all agricultural products, the farmer receives 331/3 per cent of the consumer's dollar. For foodstuffs he receives 45 per cent, for tobacco products 16 per cent, for cotton products 12 per cent, and for alcoholic beverages only 5 per cent.

It is estimated that approximately 98 per cent of the California lemon crop and about 80 per cent of the California-Arizona lettuce shipments are now packaged in fiberboard cartons, compared to about 10 per cent for both commodities two vears ago.

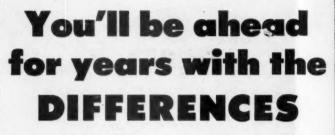
Something for everyone to ponder upon:

"God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this: that power belongeth unto -H.B.T.

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More working time is gained, too, by the HD-5's simple, smooth operator control and load-matched working speeds.

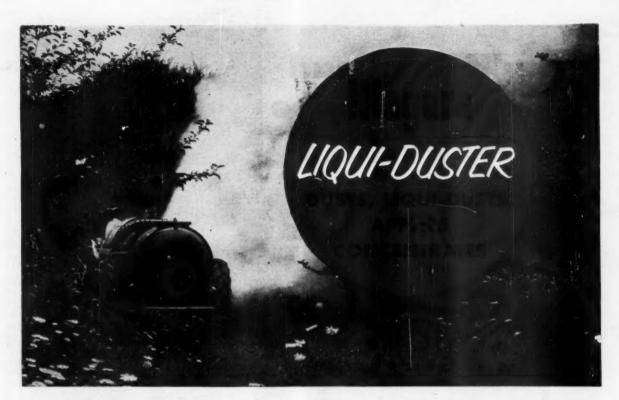
These are examples of Allis-Chalmers fea-

tures that pile up your tractor savings as the months go by. They come in addition to the HD-5's advanced engineering that delivers more track on the ground . . . more tractor on the tracks.

harrow differences are big, too. Here is disc-gang lubrication good for the life of the blades.

Fruit growers are discovering there's a difference that doesn't show up in just tractor weight, horsepower and price. Ask your Allis-Chalmers dealer to show you the many extra HD-5 working values.

ALLIS-CHALMERS



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Better growers everywhere are now using the powerful new Niagara Liqui-Duster for allseason, all-weather protection. With it, they can dust in wet weather and liqui-dust in dry seasons to gain maximum adhesion and control. They also find it the ideal machine to apply concentrates.

The large dust discharge area plus a powerful air blast assures even distribution-no blotching on the outer areas of trees-complete coverage with less material.

The Niagara Liqui-Duster requires much less water than a big sprayer. The lighter weight makes it easy to maneuver, even in heavy going. One man can readily control this machine from the seat of a medium duty

The large acreage capacity of the Niagara Liqui-Duster permits quick coverage of extensive orchards.



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